

Application No. 10/509,471

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 21, 23-28, and 30-44 are pending in the present application, with claims 21, 43, and 44 being independent. Claim 44 has been added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected: claims 21, 23-28 and 30-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marius (DE 10123561) in view of Bolle (US 2004/0042642) and further in view of Einighammer et al. (US 2006/005661); and claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marius (DE 10123561) in view of Einighammer et al. (US 2006/005661). These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertains to the presently pending claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the features recited in the independent claims is not taught or suggested by the cited art as discussed in the previous responses. In addition, the Examiner's combination fails to clearly demonstrate that a prima facie case of obvious has been substantiated.

However, in order to discuss the rejections and to clearly further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at 703-621-7140 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Lastly, new claim 44 should be considered to be allowable at least because the cited art fails to teach or recite the combination of features recited therein.

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CONCLUSION

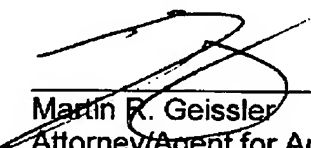
Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Martin R. Geissler, Applicants' Attorney at 1.703.621.7140 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: May 10, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure: